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**Art Unit: 1761**

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DEC 9, 1999  
~~November 30, 1999~~

[date] Gerald T. Shekleton,  
Registration No. 27,466  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

[date] Gerald T. Shekleton,  
Registration No. 27,466  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

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os. A to F are

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, a list of documents is disclosed on the attached Form PTO-1449 that may be material to the examination of this application. Listed Documents Item Nos. A to F are U.S. and foreign patents and are enclosed herewith.

No inferences should be drawn that the attached list represents a comprehensive investigation, or that any material disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention. In addition, none of the documents that have publication dates prior to the priority date of the above application anticipate the invention in this application.

Serial No. 09/385,834

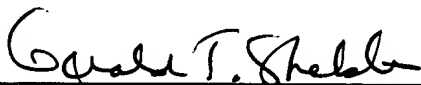
The cited document(s) disclose numerous specific features. There has been no attempt to list each and every feature disclosed by each document. The Examiner is requested to review the document(s) and determine the extent of the materiality of the document disclosures with respect to the present invention.

The discussion of any art and the citation of any document(s) herein is not to be construed as an admission that the art or document disclosure is necessarily within the invention field of endeavor, that the art or document disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that the art or document disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art as defined by the patent law with respect to the instant invention and application.

Also, there is reserved the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosures of the art and document(s) recited herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application. The recitation herein of the art and document(s) is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence.

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald T. Shekleton  
Registration No. 27,466

Dated: November 29, 1999

Enclosures:  
Form PTO-1449  
Art A1-A2; B1-B10; C1-C26

**WELSH & KATZ, LTD.**  
120 South Riverside Plaza  
22nd Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
Telephone: 312/655-1500